Independence and Peace for the Vietnamese People !

YANKEE GO HOME!

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NORTH VIETNAM

U.S. AGGRESSORS DULY PUNISHED OVER HANOI ON AUGUST 11 AND 12 :

9 PLANES DOWNED, MANY PILOTS CAPTURED

SOUTH VIETNAM

L.A.F. Brilliant Victories at the Gates of Saigon

560 ENEMIES, INCLUDING 470 G.I.s, WIPED OUT — 20 PLANES AND HELICOPTERS DOWNED — 5 WAR VESSELS SUNK OR DAMAGED

Enemy plane hit by a missile

An A.A. battery which contributed to the downing of 7 U.S. planes over Hanoi on August 12, 1967.

D.R.V.N. FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON U.S. AIR RAIDS ON HANOI

The Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued a statement regarding the U.S. air raids on Hanoi capital city on Aug. 11 and 12.

The statement reads in parts:

"...This is a new and extremely serious step of war "escalation" taken by the U.S. imperialists against populated quarters in Hanoi capital city in the hope of shaking the morale of the Vietnamese people.

"...These savage bombings which took place right after President Johnson had decided to dispatch more American troops to South Viet Nam and pressed U.S. satellites to send there more mercenary troops, prove that the U.S. imperialists obdurately continue to intensify and expand their aggressive war in Viet Nam. This act has further laid bare the extremely brutal and warlike features of the U.S. imperialists and the deceitful talks of the Johnson administration about "peace" and "negotiation".

"No reckless 'escalation' step of the U.S. imperialists in North Viet Nam can save them from their inevitable failure in South Viet Nam. On the contrary, the more frenzied and brutal the U.S. imperialists are, the deeper the Vietnamese people's hatred for them and the greater their determination to fight to the end for the independence and freedom of the fatherland and to deal them telling blows. The U.S. Government must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from their new acts of war escalation..."

BERTRAND RUSSELL INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL 5TH INVESTIGATION TEAM CONDEMNS U.S. AGGRESSION

CONTINUING the investigation on the crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists in their war of aggression against the D.R.V.N., the 5th Investigation Team of the B. Russell International Tribunal has arrived in Hanoi. The team includes:

— Mehmet Ali Aybar, lawyer (Turkey), expert on international law, M.P. and President of the Turkish Workers' Party, head of the team.

— Denis Berger (France), secretary of the Tribunal in charge of the preparations for the second session of the Tribunal, member,

— Henrik Forss, chairman of the Viet Nam Committee of Finland, member,

— Jean Bartolino, correspondent of the French paper *La Croix*, member.

After several days of investigation in a number of cities, towns and villages raided by U.S. air pirates, the team held a press conference on August 11, 1967 in Hanoi to denounce U.S. crimes in Viet Nam.

The U.S. imperialists are the aggressors, the authers of sufferings of the Vietnamese people and the greatest war criminals of today.

THE B. Russell International Tribunal in its 1st session in Stockholm, came to the conclusion: "The U.S. imperialists are the aggressors of Viet Nam; they have killed the Vietnamese people with bombs". Ali Aybar, head of the team recalled the above conclusion in order to reaffirm that the atrocities committed by the U.S. imperialists in Viet Nam are undeniable and the task of the team in Viet Nam this time is also to get further evidence of U.S. crimes. He reported the successes of the B. Russell International Tribunal 1st session and stressed the legal character of the Tribunal, its responsibility at present as well as in future toward the just struggle of the Vietnamese people. His speech however was interrupted twice by two attacks of U.S. airplanes on the capital of Hanoi but left in everybody's mind this clear-cut impression: "The U.S. imperialists are the aggressors, the authors of sufferings of the Vietnamese people, challenge the whole mankind, and are the greatest war criminals of today".

Another point which is already irrefutable but is still the object of investigation of the team in order to obtain more evidence for its Second Session is: *the U.S. imperialists use unconventional weapons against the Vietnamese people.*

Denis Berger, secretary of the Tribunal in charge of the preparations for the second session of the Tribunal declared that he would be able to bear witness to the fact that the U.S. imperialists have deliberately raided many cities, towns, villages, churches, schools and hospitals, in many localities in North Viet Nam and have resorted to unconventional weapons against the people in both North and South Viet Nam. He said: "The U.S. imperialists have used such barbarous weapons as steel pellet, phosphorous and incendiary bombs which are lethal weapons banned by international law... We have seen a northern woman burned by U.S. napalm. We have met Tran Thi Ly, a woman from the South who was tortured 10 years ago but whose wounds are still bleeding".

The ferocity of the U.S. imperialists stirs up the indignation and emotion of doctor Henrik Forss, Chairman of the Viet Nam Committee of Finland, member of the team. Having visited and studied many medical records of victims of steel-pellet, napalm and phosphorous bombs, and personally examined 11 persons wounded by U.S. bombs, doctor Henrik Forss said: "It is necessary to lay bare the true nature and the savage crimes of the U.S. imperialists before world public opinion".

The U.S. imperialists can't defeat Viet Nam, a nation who knows how to fight and fight valiantly and cleverly.

JEAN BERTOLINO, correspondent of the French paper *La Croix* related in detail his visits to many places in North Viet Nam, He said: "I followed many operations conducted by American troops in the South of your country. I visited Cu Chi, Long An, Da Nang, Phu Bai and many other places. During over three months in South Viet Nam, I saw American troops and their henchmen behead people at market places and forced the inhabitants to look on. I saw 90 old men in Cu Chi tied up and persecuted. I saw villages and hamlets razed by American bulldozers, trees and plants burned down and the "iron triangle" area bombed by B.52s... Since then, I have been thinking over the war unleashed by the U.S. imperialists in Viet Nam. While visiting North Viet Nam, I again saw U.S. bombs and shells demolish villages and hamlets, kill civilians, women and innocent children. I couldn't control my emotion when seeing a hospital in Thanh Hoa province destroyed by U.S. bombs."

Jean Bertolino also gave his personal observations on the fighting of the Vietnamese people in the North. He had visited a women militia-platoon of Hau Loc (Thanh Hoa province), a unit which had downed an A-4 jet fighter by 27 rounds of small arms fire, met "girls who are so young, sweet, gay slender but whose fighting spirit is dauntless. They represented one of the beautiful pictures of the fighting Vietnamese". He had also met an old woman who was living right in the area where fierce fightings frequently occurred, and listened to her reading of a poem written by herself in praise of her sons, nieces or nephews' exploits.

And Jean Bertolino said in conclusion: "The U.S. imperialists want to intimidate the Vietnamese people with their bombs but they can in no way defeat a nation who knows how to fight and fight so valiantly and cleverly... Such people, such a nation will certainly be victorious, certainly they will win complete victory."

NO ESCALATION CAN PREVENT U.S. FAILURE

ON August 11 and 12, U.S. aircraft repeatedly bombed and strafed the Long Bien bridge and many residential quarters and economic installations in the centre and the suburbs of Hanoi.

During the raids on the hamlets of Thuong Thanh, Viet Hung and Giang Bien villages and Gia Lam district town, besides heavy pounders, steel-pellet bombs were used. More than 100 civilians were killed or wounded. What warrants attention is that in their raid on Aug. 12, U.S. planes made 3 successive strikes on a dyke section in Giang Bien village. This section, 2km in length, was cratered or fissured in many places.

This extremely serious step of war escalation had been prepared, rather minutely, by Washington in matters of techniques and public opinion as well.

Recently, at the so-called sub-group for investigation of the results of the bombing of North Viet Nam, rigged up by the U.S. Senate Appropriations sub-committee, top U.S. war makers and a section of political circles had already clamoured for increased bombing of North Viet Nam to recoup their losses on the South Viet Nam battlefield.

J. Stennis, Chairman of the Senate Preparedness Defence Committee, loudly called for a bombing step-up in North Viet Nam and for air attacks against Laos and Cambodia. Otherwise, he maintained "the bloody jungle war may continue indefinitely" (*AP*, Aug. 9), while Grant Sharp, commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific, bragged that the bombing of North Viet Nam was a logical development in the pressure brought to bear on the Hanoi Government (*AP*, Aug. 11). Other war maniacs in Washington who found the war in South Viet Nam in a stalemate hoped that increased bombing of North Viet Nam would bring an early end to the conflict (*AFP*, Aug. 11).

They nurtured foolish hopes. Senator S. Thurmond said: "We can win if we use our full air power and sea power" (*AP*, Aug. 9).

In disregard of world-wide protest and the opposition by the American public and even a section of American political circles, President Johnson, as reported by the *New York Times*, personally ordered U.S. aircraft to conduct more escalation (*AP*, Aug. 13), striking at new targets in the Hanoi and Haiphong perimeter.

While exhorting more bombing of North Viet Nam, Grant Sharp took pains to explain that current bombings were no escalation, because escalation was a dirty term (*AP*, Aug. 11).

However, to find a way out for the war in South Viet Nam which is being lost, both militarily and politically, leading U.S. war makers have obdurately chosen this "dirty" path.

Following the decision to dispatch another 45,000 troops to South Viet Nam and the Taylor-Clifford mission to various satellite countries to collect more cannon-fodder for the aggressive war, Johnson's decision to attack new targets in North Viet Nam indicates that they still persist in their aggression. They have clearly shown their bellicosity and their desire to prolong the war at all costs. They hope to obtain a military success and drive the Vietnamese people to the conference table to accept capitulation terms. All that is mere miscalculation. Since the air war waged against the D.R.V.N. over the past two years with its untold ravages has failed to subdue the Vietnamese people, to find a way out for the U.S. in its war in South Viet Nam, and to avoid punishing blows from the Vietnamese people, the new escalation on the remaining targets (according to the aggressors), can in no way produce more effects. As to winning victory by an increased use of air and naval power, this is nothing more than an illusion and a braggadocio when a tragic fate is in store for nearly half a million U.S. expeditionary troops in South Viet Nam and the Pentagon feels a solution impossible.

With a firmer determination, the Vietnamese people will exploit their military gains, and in the full flush of victory, will resolutely reduce all new steps of war escalation to failure. Experience over the past few years shows that every time the U.S. climbs a new rung in the ladder of its escalation, it only courts new and bigger defeats.

B.52s COMMIT NEW CRIMES IN DEMILITARIZED ZONE AND VINH LINH AREA

ON August 13, many flights of U.S. B.52s again wantonly bombed the villages of Trung Son (South), Vinh Son, Vinh Truong, Vinh Tan, Vinh Quang villages (North of the demilitarized zone) and the villages of Vinh Lam, Vinh Kim, Vinh Thach, Vinh Linh area. The bombing caused great losses in property and lives to the people.

This was the third B.52 raid on the demilitarized zone and Vinh Linh area within a month.

The spokesman of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry has released a statement denouncing these new criminal acts and escalation of the U.S. imperialists, regarding them as a challenge to world public opinion; he demanded that the U.S. Government end its aggression against Viet Nam and stop sabotaging the statute of the demilitarized zone and the 1954 Geneva agreements on Viet Nam.

The Viet Nam War: U.S. Neo-Colonialism and the National Liberation Movement

U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM IN VIET NAM

"WE have no territorial ambition, no desire to stay indefinitely in Viet Nam, no economic design; we have intervened solely at the request of a government threatened by external aggression, and our only desire is to set up in South Viet Nam a democratic, free, independent government"— thus can be summarized the objectives proclaimed by American leaders concerning Viet Nam. Any man with some common sense will find very strange indeed the way in which Washington has been trying to safeguard "independence and freedom" in South Viet Nam by sending in nearly half a million expeditionary troops and pouring on the country more bombs than it had dropped on the whole of Europe during the Second World War. General Johnson, the U.S.Army Chief of Staff, admits: "We act with ruthlessness, like a steamroller, bombing extensive areas and not selected targets based on detailed intelligence". (quoted by Schlesinger in *Viet Nam, The Bitter Heritage*, page 52).

As to that free independent and democratic government which the U.S. claims it has been defending in South Viet Nam, from Diem to Ky, everyone knows what it actually is. Let us simply quote from one of the best American columnists, James Reston: "Our commitment was to a 'legitimate government', and what we have now in Saigon is neither 'legitimate', nor 'a government'".

Behind the objectives proclaimed by Washington, we must seek the unavowed, because unavowable, targets of U.S. policy.

ON March 26, 1964, trying to justify the Johnson administration's Viet Nam policy, McNamara declared that four predecessors of the present U.S. president had stood for intervention in Viet Nam. This means that Washington's Viet Nam policy is not the result of insufficiently thought out actions, but a constant feature of U.S. policy for nearly 25 years now. Let us recall its principal stages.

Even before the end of the Second World War, Roosevelt already sought to oust the French from Indochina; Truman imposed a decisive "American presence" in Viet Nam by giving massive aid to the French colonialists and trying to help them crush the Vietnamese resistance movement. After the French defeat, Eisenhower, after doing away with French positions, installed in South Viet Nam the Diem government and gave it support against tide and wind; Kennedy, in 1961, started the "special war," to try to save that government from collapse; and to end it all, Johnson has given the Viet Nam war this ever-widening scope known to all.

In 1945, the French had endeavoured to reconquer Viet Nam so as to maintain a colonial empire dubbed French Union. In the postwar world, violently shaken by the powerful national liberation movement, this war of reconquest under the banner of old-style colonialism was an error which the United States tried to avoid.

With dollars and weapons, it is always easy to find native "nationalists" to build a "national" army and a "national" government. Let us recall that in 1776, during the war of independence waged by the American people against Great Britain, 150,000 Americans had fought on the side of the British against their compatriots. The essential point is not to have a flag, an army, a representation at the United Nations, but to know who is in command of this army, who finances the government, who runs the show?

It is all the more easy for Yankee neo-colonialism to find faithful valets as national liberation in the former colonies is always accompanied by social upheavals in which privileged and parasitic classes, in particular landlords and feudalists, are stripped of their power and economic privileges. From Brazil to South Korea, from Thailand to Black Africa, one finds everywhere those men of the past who seek to hang on to the coat-tails of the imperialists and maintain their privileges by hoisting a national flag and proclaiming themselves defenders of freedom. Patriots and progressives, workers and peasants in particular, who struggle for the improvement of their living conditions and radical reforms, are dubbed "communists" and exterminated.

And so the trick has come off. Relying on an army equipped and trained by the U.S.A., financed by an American "aid" which covers almost the whole budget, brandishing an anti-communism concocted by American advisers, a "national" government, in fact made up of the most reactionary and retrograde elements of the nation, goes into action for the sake of American strategic and economic interests. Some people are surprised — or feign to be surprised —by the fact that everywhere the Americans could recruit only men who are the most despised by their people. Wherever American neo-colonialism is established, one finds ruling cliques wallowing in corruption, opposing all democratic reforms and repressing, often in barbarous manner, all people in their country who stand for progress.

And everywhere, patriots, progressives, communists, and even important fractions of the bourgeoisie, struggle against Yankee neo-colonialism and its flunkeys. Those who advocate the most thorough-going social reforms in our days are also the best patriots and the staunchest adversaries of all imperialisms. The peoples' opposition to neo-colonialism can only grow stronger with each passing day, and imperialism, Yankee imperialism in particular, besides perfecting its political camouflages, has had to resort more and more to violence anh armed repression, ending up with a colonial war of the classical style involving the most modern means of destruction and extermination.

One would need a great dose of naivety or bad faith to continue believing in the myth of Yankee imperialism defending the freedoms of the world at a time when American bombs are reducing to ashes thousands of Vietnamese villages, when the people in American Black Ghettos are rising up in a just struggle to put an end to their servitude. The men in Washington often show their true colours by blurting out words that betray their inner thoughts. In February 1965, before joining his ambassador's post in Saigon, Cabot Lodge, in answer to an American journalist who asked him whether American action in Viet Nam could be justified as regards international law, declared that "the legal aspect of the thing has no meaning at all". (*U.S. News and World Report*, Feb. 15, 1965).

ONE may say that in Viet Nam Yankee neo-colonialism has gone through its complete cycle of metamorphoses. In face of a powerful and persistent national movement, neo-colonialism has been forced to cast away its trumpery and gradually show its true colours. It had tried to pass for anti-colonialism, but in 1950—1954, it was forced to give massive aid to French colonialism and, at the time of Dien Bien Phu, to brandish the threat of nuclear intervention against the Vietnamese Resistance. It had wanted to set up a so-called national government which would "defend freedom", but it was forced to enlist the services of Diem, an arch-reactionary mandarin who had served the French then the Japanese, a blood-thirsty dictator whose only Parliament was his own family. It had presented itself as the champion of democracy and the free world, respectful of international law, but in 1956 it was forced to oppose free elections stipulated in international agreements, for, as admitted by Eisenhower, "possibly 80 percent of the population would have voted for Ho Chi Minh".

And in the remaining 20 per cent, it would have to reckon with an important number of neutralists, indifferent people, partisans of religious sects, members of the bourgeoisie, all opposed to Diem, Washington's man. To British M.P. William Warbey, Leland Barrows, head of the U.S. economic aid mission to Saigon, admitted that "when President Diem took over in 1955, his authority did not extend beyond the presidential place".

American officials make no bones about the fact that Viet Nam is being used as a proving-ground for new American weapons and tactics. Thus, counter-guerilla experts have carried out there their apprenticeship; so have green-bereted special forces.

Helicopters have been used on a large scale, and destruction of crops by toxic chemicals experimented. American engineers and militarymen have put to the test the most murderous weapons. For instance, polystyren has been added to napalm to make it stick harder to the victims' skin.

But it is also in Viet Nam that special warfare has met with failure, and American imperialism, driven to the wall, has had to resort to that extreme measure that neo-colonialism always tries to avoid: to send U.S. troops into direct conflict with the Vietnamese people, to Americanize a war which the Americans had hoped to conduct through puppet soldiers. Thus the government which clamours the loudest about peace and peaceful cexistence has embarked upon a war that nothing could justify. A complete political failure: the wolf which had tried to don a lamb's skin has had to show its fangs and claws.

Even such personages as U Thant and de Gaulle have refused to approve the American thesis of an anti-communist crusade in Viet Nam; they see there, and openly say so, a brazen aggression against a people's national independence by a power for which might is right. Writes Walter Lippmann with sadness: "There is not a single independent state in Europe or in Asia which follows our lead... As for the Asian peoples we are supposed to be saving, no independent Asian state — not Japan, India, Pakistan, Burma, Malaysia, Indonesia — is giving us even token support."

Having no popular basis, Diem — and those who were to succeed him — had to resort to ferocious repression to build up some kind of authority for themselves. American advisers inspired him with a whole range of demagogic and repressive measures, from noisy drum-beating about "community personalism" to the regrouping of millions of peasants in concentration camps dubbed strategic hamlets. Of all the elements brought into play, the army and police have remained, everywhere and at all times, the most important. On June 1, 1956, Robertson, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, declared before a convention of the "American Friends of Viet Nam":

"Our efforts are directed first of all toward helping to sustain the internal security forces consisting of a regular army of about 150,000 men, a mobile civil guard of some 45,000 men, and local defense units which are being formed to give protection against subversion on the village level".

This army has now reached 600,000 men and is a veritable cancer devouring the country. The only organised institution of the regime, it has been torn asunder by endless rivalries, eaten up by corruption, led by blood-thirsty and incompetent adventurers.

NEO-COLONIAL practices have for long been well known in the United States, especially in its relations with Latin America. It was under Kennedy that they were shaped into a doctrine, applied through a series of systematic measures in all fields — economic, political, military, ideological. Kennedy became conscious of the importance of the national liberation movement for the future of imperialism. With the help of a brain-trust, he worked out a series of coherent measures aimed at warding off the danger. Alliance for Progress, Peace Corps, Green Berets, impassioned appeals aimed at arousing in the American people the taste for neo-colonial adventures... Kennedy did his utmost to drive back the surging tide of the colonial peoples' national liberation movement. Having promoted Taylor his first strategist, he licked into shape the strategy of "special warfare" which was to be applied in Viet Nam".

HOW to explain this ferociousness, this truculence shown by American neo-colonial policy in Viet Nam? At first sight, it seems as though economic motives were not playing a major role; American leaders have tried hard to make believe that their motives are purely ideological, disinterested. In fact, never will the economic exploitation of such a country as Viet Nam make up for the scores of billions of dollars spent for the war. Even such a discerning mind as Harrison Salisbury has said: "There is nothing in your country which is worth our while economically. If the United States had to stay in Viet Nam it would simply cost us money." (in *Behind the Lines: Hanoi*, p. 156)

This "us" is equivocal, for it lumps together in one word the American man in the street and the big trusts. It is clear that the American citizen could only lose in blood and dollars — in this war. But the scores of billions of dollars spent are not lost for everyone; nor are the hundreds of millions of "economic aid" used to buy

(*Continued page 7*)

22nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGUST REVOLUTION (Aug. 19, 1945)

THE PATH LIGHTENED BY THE AUGUST REVOLUTION

IN a remote village of Viet Bac last fall, old Nong Van Puong saw off his grandson joining the army, "treading in his father's steps" as the old man remarked with pride.

When the boy was out of sight, his grandpa turned back his eyes to his beloved village and recollected his past. Twenty two years ago he took part in the uprising against the Japanese and the French, while his only son also set off to liberate the South; now he is fighting on a far away battlefield.

That parting not only conjured up significant family memories but also had a great symbolic meaning related to the life of the Vietnamese nation: succeeding generations are taking the revolutionary path, that of the glorious August Revolution.

August 19, 1945, the nation-wide insurrection broke out, the entire Vietnamese nation, rose up with almost bare hands, so to say, but also with a will for independence and freedom, as well as an aspiration for a better life. They stood up amidst the ruins of 80 years of serfdom, of World War II of the famine (which carried off 2 million people) and overthrew the domination of the French colonialists and Japanese fascists. With the triumph of the August Revolution, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam came into being on September 2, 1945.

Thus regional uprisings as in Bac Son (Thai Nguyen province) Nam Ky (now Nam Bo), Do Luong (Nghe An province) in 1940 and in Ba To (Quang Ngai province) in early 1945, led to the general insurrection in the fall of 1945 throughout the country from the Chinese border to Ca Mau Cape, from the Pacific coast to the Truong Son Range and the Western High Plateaux. The tide of the insurrection reached Hanoi capital on August 19, Hue imperial city on August 23. At last Saigon rose up on August 25. The whole nation having in common 2,000 years of history but artificially cut off under French rule, stood up to liberate itself and reunify its land and its people.

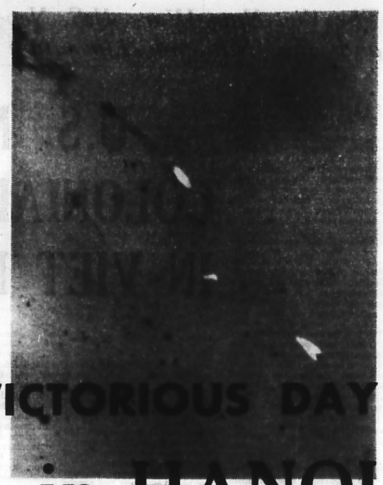
The August Revolution continued the tradition, and was in itself the outcome of century-old struggle for national liberation of our people. It heralded a new period in the fierce and protracted struggle to wrest people's power, to build and defend the Democratic Republic of Viet nam. The first Resistance War waged in the light of the August Revolution led to Dien Bien Phu and the recognition of the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese nation by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

In the dark nights of the U.S. puppet regime in Saigon, the South Viet Nam patriots valiantly put up concerted struggle to carry on the work of the August Revolution in new historic conditions. At present the Vietnamese people are conducting a second resistance war against U.S. aggression precisely to complete this national liberation.

The spirit of the August Revolution is embodied by our people's iron will and earnest aspiration for independence, freedom, reunification and territorial integrity. It is the resolve to unceasingly attack, to defeat any enemy, to overcome any difficulty, to foil any adverse trick. It is the boundless confidence in our strength as well as in the support of our friends the world over.

Following the trail blazed by the August Revolution, we have scored success after success. Our people have made up their minds to fight and to win. We shall march forward to complete national liberation and at the same time to fulfil our duty toward other nations, to frustrate the present U.S. imperialist aggression.

The spirit of the August Revolution is illuminating old Nong Van Puong's thinking and life. Recently he learnt that his grandson had performed an exploit. Some days after, he also learnt that his only son had heroically laid down his life at the front. Joy and sorrow mingled in his mind. But nothing can shake his determination as leader of his hamlet's co-operative. He is resolved to lead his fellow villagers in production and his family is determined to devote more work-days to do the jobs of his son and his grandson. Their paddy shares of rice and foodstuffs will be sold to the government after the harvest right in the village house where 22 years ago, he had taken part in the uprising together with his comrades. That is his plan and that is also what our peasants are striving after.



Torn asunder, an American plane crashed in Hanoi on Aug. 12, 1967

A VICTORIOUS SALVO in HANOI

ON August 11, 1967, U.S. aircraft bombed Long Bien bridge and a number of localities in the centre and periphery of Hanoi: two planes were shot down. In another attack on the following day, seven American planes met the same fate.

On that day of August 12, the Hanoi people could witness the same punishment as meted out to the air marauders on May 19, 1967.

Together with the report of small guns, the boom of A. A. batteries and missiles was heard without interruption amidst the shouts: "a plane is hit and set afire", followed by long applause of the population.

On that morning, a plane was downed in the north of the city and in the afternoon, ack ack fire was seen in the sky of the same locality pursuing four planes which flew amidst clouds of smoke and flashes. Suddenly a big flame appeared in the tail of a jet and a trail of smoke accompanied the crashing plane until it hit the ground. At the end of the battle, a big explosion was heard from the ground: a surface-to air missile was fired, making an ashy mushroom and orange flash in the sky; two balls of flames got separated from the enemy flying formation and wafted down to the merriment of the population.

August 12 was a day of brilliant victory of Hanoi city.

This success was due to the close co-ordination of various arms in the air defence system including the air force, to the courage and determination of the Hanoi citizens who spared no efforts to help and encourage the plane hunters, extinguish the fire and save the victims of the air raids.

The word uttered by Grant Sharp that the "communists" will come to the conference table only when pressure is brought to bear on them is but a mere illusion.

NORTH Vietnam

Up to August 13, 1967

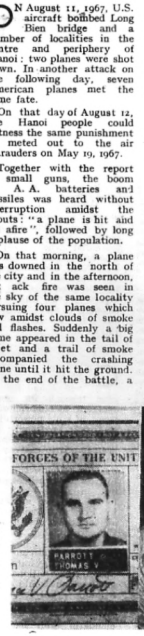
2,188

U.S. PLANES DOWNED

Three American pilots among those killed or captured in Hanoi on Aug. 12, 1967.

Left to right:

Thomas Vance Parrott, captain, service number FV-3,103,992, piloting a reconnaissance fighter 4C — Thomas A. Norris, captain, service number FR77,071, piloting a F.105 — Edwin Atterberry, captain, service number AO3,065,473, piloting a reconnaissance fighter 4C



O.L.A.S. Conference's Resolution on Solidarity with Viet Nam

"THE first conference of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity, held in Havana, Cuba, has paid particular attention to the situation in Viet Nam. After having heard the speeches of representatives of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the delegates unanimously:

— Declare that the heroic struggle waged by the Vietnamese people constitutes a front line trench in the world-wide anti-imperialist struggle, whose successes are a tremendous contribution to the total destruction of imperialism and whose example of heroism and sacrifice is raising the level of consciousness and struggle of the popular masses to the highest planes, and effectively encourages the revolutionary struggle of other peoples, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

— Declare that the struggle of Viet Nam is today one of the greatest contributions in man's history to the unity of the peoples engaged in active struggle, that the Viet Nam people's heroism is showing that the unbreakable will of the peoples is a force capable of destroying the most barbarous and brutal destructive machinery.

— Express the Latin American peoples' gratitude for this solidarity and boundless sacrifice which find their expression in every day combat, and in the shedding of the blood of the best sons of the Vietnamese people.

— Energetically condemn U. S. imperialism whose aggressive and interventionist policy reaches its highest point in Viet Nam, where it tries, in vain, to subjugate this invincible people by making a massive use of its engine of destruction and death.

— Solemnly proclaim that Viet Nam today is blazing the revolutionary trail for the peoples of America to follow, and our slogan will be the creation of two, three, or more Viet Nams in the struggle for the total destruction of imperialism.

— Reject and condemn the "peace talk" and "unconditional negotiation" swindle of Yankee imperialism.

— Unconditionally support the four points of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and the five points of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, and the July 17, 1966 appel of President Ho Chi Minh.

— Call on the peoples of Latin America to intensify their solidarity actions with Viet Nam by every possible means, and especially extend their revolutionary struggle, their armed struggle, as the most effective way of expressing their concrete and militant solidarity with this heroic people.

13th WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST A and H Bombs

SUPPORTS THE STRUGGLE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

THE 13th World Conference Against A and H Bombs (held in Tokyo on July 31, 1967) has unanimously adopted a resolution condemning U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, called for expansion and stepping up of activities in support of the Vietnamese people in both zones, expressed support for the four points of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the five points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Though the Japanese authorities, tailing after the U.S. imperialists and applying a hostile policy against the Vietnamese people, had refused to grant entry visas into Japan to the delegations of the D.R.V.N. and the South Viet Nam N.F.L. to attend the conference, the assembly showed its active support to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people by appointing in absentia the two Vietnamese head delegates members of the Presidium of the Conference.

OUR ULTIMATE LIBERTY

by JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

Roger Pic brought from North Viet Nam the photos which were shown in Paris. The following lines have been written by Jean-Paul Sartre to introduce that exhibition.

FOUR children learning, in a trench-shelter, how the human heart beats. Of all the pictures Pic brought back from this war, in which our own fate is at stake, this one is doubtless the most significant.

It suddenly makes concrete the dialectic of life and death, and gives it its true poetic meaning.

But above all, it illustrates the victory already won by the Vietnamese people. In this, it seems to me even more redoubtable for builders of ruins than those modern weapons seen in other pictures, pointed towards an ever-threatening sky, whose lying effectiveness — for those who know how to use their eyes springs perhaps from the fact that they are also manned by girls.

Effectiveness for the present and for the future, when in that country for so long ravaged by war, over those peaceful rivers and fairy boats, evening will no longer start the play of intricate strategies, but simply the unfolding of dreams.

What is fascinating in this implacable mirror is the constant affirmation of the future, like a rainbow spanning the present horror.

This certainty blazes out in the children's laughter, in the elegance of those two young women taking a walk in a city bombed several times a day, in the quiet diligence of those smiling women researchers, in the drawings on that long series of wall posters in which is expressed the humour of an entire people.

That the Vietnamese are defending our own dignity is abundantly illustrated in the documents presented. Those men, women, children, whom the most powerful nation on earth has been trying to bring to their knees through the use of the most criminal means — I see in their eyes neither fear nor discouragement, but most often anger, and always a resolve that is not grim, but reasoned and reasonable, I would say wholly natural.

To remain a human being in those inhuman conditions is already a challenge to the barbarians. But to become richer, more harmonious, more responsible men and women, by rejecting annihilation—this means victory for us all.

HOWEVER, to make us forget that, wherever we were born through the effect of chance, the same enemy is lying in wait for us, and that, in a way, we are also living under the bombs, our hearts are being smeared with less oriented emotions: the wreck of an oil tanker, and the "black tide" threatening our holidays, the fire devouring a big department store, the death agony of a racing car driver... Good and fine tragedies, pictures fit for all publics, with no white rectangle.

The trick was played on us thirty years ago with Spain. It was played on us with Auschwitz and Dachau. It was played on us with Hiroshima.

Each time assassins pointed their weapons at us, we were asked to look away.

Millions of us were thus shot in the back as they waited for the apparition in the sky of the Virgin of Fatima, or, in the sea, of the monsters of Loch Ness.

Now, we can no longer plead surprise. We have the right to see us as we are, in the eyes of those maimed children, of those disfigured women, of those serious-looking schoolboys.

These pictures are imperative, and we must make our choice.

Indomitable Viet Nam is our ultimate liberty.

In an underground shelter
Photo Roger PIC

Syrian Arab Delegation Pays Friendship Visit to D.R.V.N.

AT the invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, a Syrian Arab delegation led by Mohamed Rabah El Tsouni, member of the Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party (Baath of Syria) and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, made a friendship visit to the D.R.V.N. in early August 1967.

During its stay here, the delegation visited the Viet Nam Revolution Museum, the Viet Nam People's Army Museum, a number of localities in North Viet Nam, of units of the Viet Nam People's Army and some places raided recently by U.S. planes.

Everywhere it went, the delegation was warmly welcomed by the population who showed it a great militant solidarity.

Premier Pham Van Dong had a cordial talk with the delegation.

The delegation had the opportunity to see clearly the Vietnamese people's determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors, and their achievements in production and fighting. It also witnessed many crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists against the North Vietnamese people.

The delegation also called on the Permanent Representation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in Hanoi. It was warmly received by Nguyen Phu Soai, acting head of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Representation.

THE WHOLE WORLD SUPPORTS US

SOCIAL AND BIG MEETING IN SUPPORT OF VIET NAM IN THE U.A.R.

ON August 4, a soirée and big meeting were held at Charkieh supporting Viet Nam in her struggle against the U.S. aggressors.

Speaking at the meeting, representatives of the Arab Socialist Union, of the writers and artists and of all sections of the people warmly praised the valiant fighting spirit and brilliant exploits of the Vietnamese people and pledge themselves to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese people in the common struggle against U.S. imperialism.

AFRICAN PEOPLES SUPPORT VIET NAM'S STRUGGLE AGAINST THE U.S.

IN a speech delivered on July 1, 1967, Colonel Michel Micombero, President of the Republic of Burundi, stressed that "the war conducted by the brother Vietnamese people is the focus of our concerns. We have said and we once again repeat that the U.S. expeditionary corps must release South East Asia and let the peoples of this part of the world, who have shown their maturity and militancy, settle freely their own affairs without foreign interference."

On the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva agreements on Viet Nam (July 20), many progressive and revolutionary organisations in Africa, including the South West Africa People's Organization, the Central Committee of UNITA, the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, the All-African Trade Unions Federation, the Mozambique Liberation Front, and the National Union of Tanganyika Workers, have sent messages to the interested organizations in Viet Nam, condemning the U.S. imperialists' war crimes and voicing their militant solidarity with and all-out support to the Vietnamese people's struggle.

BIG DEMONSTRATION IN AUSTRALIA

A demonstration took place in Sydney on August 13, 1967. This biggest demonstration ever held in Sydney since these last two years, voiced the indignation of the broad masses of people against the barbarous war waged by the U.S. imperialists and the Holt government's policy of tailing after the U.S.

Thousands of people including well known writers, poets, artists, religious personalities, T.U. leaders, professors of the National University of New South Wales, representatives of peace organizations, marched through the main thoroughfares in rows of six abreast and held meeting at the Stadium.

The demonstrators displayed slogans demanding immediate end of the bombing of the D.R.V.N., withdrawal of Australian troops from South Viet Nam and trial of those who have killed the civilian people with napalm before an international tribunal.

News from CAMBODIA

Statement of the Cambodian Writers' Association on the Yankees and Their Quislings' Barbarous Repression of South Viet Nam Writers and Artists

THE Cambodian Writers' Association has just learnt with high indignation that the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, powerless in their aggression against the Vietnamese people, begin to commit criminal acts against Vietnamese intellectuals, writers and artists.

The writers Thu An, Hoai Linh, Ha Kieu, Mai Quan, Van Luong, the renowned actors Yen Lang, Ngoc Trai and especially Mr Vu Hanh, a writer and journalist well-known in Saigon' secretary general of the "Organization for the Defence of National Culture" and member of the International "Pen Club", have fallen victims to the repression of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. They were either jailed or murdered. Madame Bach Tuyet, the main actress of the *Da Ly Huong* (Night Scent) theatrical troupe, was raped and committed suicide. Many other men of letters, actors and actresses live now under the terrorist regime of these fascists.

By these barbarous methods, the U.S. imperialists hope to stamp out the resistance of the courageous Vietnamese people.

In face of these odious crimes, the Cambodian writers, through their Association, vigorously condemn the U.S. imperialists and their South Vietnamese puppets and demand that an end be put to that odious practice. They firmly support the South Vietnamese people in their just struggle to defend and preserve their national heritage. Our Vietnamese brothers have behind them not only the Cambodian writers but also all peace-and justice-loving writers and people.

ABOUT THE "ELECTION" IN SAIGON

WASHINGTON IS ANXIOUS ABOUT THE RIFT BETWEEN ITS LACKEYS

"THE Americans were appalled at the prospect of the two generals (Thieu and Ky — *Ed.*) each backed by their own group of military followers tearing the unity of the armed forces to pieces as they slugged away in an electoral campaign. Obviously the danger that one side would be tempted to launch a coup against the other would, in such conditions, be very great." (*Financial Times*, July 11).

"The U.S. embassy has been instructed by Washington to keep close tabs on the situation and use its influence to heal the breach between Chief of State Thieu and Premier Ky" (W. Tuchy, *Los Angeles Times* quoted by *USIS*, July, 13).

"On Friday most of the civilian candidates continued to boycott the election campaign. Meanwhile, the two military candidates Thieu and Ky showed extraordinary zeal. Ky's planes daily flew here and there, carrying certificates attesting the peasants' right to own common land, medals and rewards for the armymen, subsidies to orphanages and schools... Never have charitable activities been so lavish as in this period of election campaign...

"The U.S. embassy is doing its best to find formula of compromise but to no avail." (*AFP*, August 11).

ASSESSMENTS BY AMERICAN POLITICAL CIRCLES...

THE 57 Democrat representatives who have approved or opposed Johnson's policy on Viet Nam are demanding that the President serves a warning to the Saigon government to the effect that confidence must be restored for the good carrying out of the presidential election." (*AFP*, Aug. 11).

"I think the tide had turned in the Senate. The election almost certainly will be undemocratic, will be close to a fraud, but so is the whole society dominated by a military junta." (Joseph S. Clark, *AP*, Aug. 11).

"The junta does not intend to let go of its power, and in many ways, is demonstrating that it will not permit a free, open and fair election". (Hatfield, Republican senator, Oregon. *AP*, Aug. 11).

An enquiry commission including deputies, senators and other observers will find it difficult to hush up the fact that the election is becoming a fraud (R.Kennedy's reply to a proposal by Thieu and Ky to invite the U.S. Congress to observe the Saigon election, *UPI*, August 12).

...AND THE WESTERN PRESS

"It will be naive to hope for a genuine democracy in South Viet Nam. (*New York Times*, July 14).

"The Armed Forces Council ruling in South Viet Nam is reported as having decided to turn the September 3 presidential election hullabaloood as a show of democracy into a big fraud". (*USIS*, August 4).

"What the Saigon authorities are doing is a mockery of genuine democratic principles. The present election campaign is unfolding in an atmosphere of outright repression and deception which smack of a most odious totalitarian regime.

"Allegedly the U.S. presence in South Viet Nam is explained as a guarantee of democracy. But in truth the Saigon military junta is resorting to every totalitarian device: the press in gagged and criticism is banned. The public protests... Therefore the hope to have a government supported by the people after the election is but an illusion..." (*New York Post*, August 12)

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND THE ELECTION

"IT is not likely the September election will be representative or that the people of South Viet Nam will be able to elect a candidate of their choice... The assembly dominated by the military has eliminated a total of seven candidates." (*Chicago Sun Times*, July 23).

"South Vietnam's forthcoming elections are more important to the present governments in Washington and Saigon than to the Vietnamese people.

"Rural areas are largely unaware of the coming vote. Observers see no signs of enthusiasm for the election in provincial capitals which are reached by some newspapers and the government radio."

"Past experience has much to do with attitudes toward the election. Many Vietnamese have found it more realistic to be suspicious than to trust. Many have gone along with whoever is in power from indifference because rightly or wrongly they believed there was no choice."

(*Reuter*, July 23)

"Since the promulgation of the constitution April 1, the government won every time it went to bat against the constituent assembly.

"Election laws were shaped according to the government's wishes. Those presidential candidates known to be objectionable to the government were barred from running by the assembly. The power of the generals in the last month has been absolute.

It must be said that the Saigon people are not interested in this electoral campaign.

"Thursday evening, before the T.V. sets placed by the government Information Service at crossroads, the spectators — composed of tricycle drivers, mudlarks, pedestrians and oldagers — did not seem to be much interested in the eleven lists of candidates appearing on the screen for the first time. It seemed that they would rather appreciate the recreation programme than speeches broadcast at 7.30 p.m. by the candidates."

(Alain Raymond. *AFP*, Aug. 4).

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Industry at the service of agriculture.

IN the first half of 1967, the Hon Gai Coal Mining Company trained nearly 100 technical workers for local co-operatives, set up and repaired scores of engineering stations and a hydraulic power station for the farmers.

HERE and THERE in D.R.V.N.

In the same period, the Hanoi regional industry and handicrafts increased production of it major items five times as compared with the first half of 1966. Nghe An regional industry also turned out over 50,000 improved farm implements, thousands of tons of phosphate and about twice as much insecticide as last year's first half.

Moreover, the Heavy Industry Ministry helped the provinces equip and establish scores of industrial undertakings including engineering works, cement factories and coal mining. A number of them has gone into operation.

Phu Tho regional industry has discovered a number of coal-mines and has been simultaneously building and exploiting them to supply enough coal for industrial bases in the province.

CU CHI GUERILLAS

This documentary film of the Liberation Studios in South Viet Nam, dealing with the heroic struggle of our compatriots in the South, has received a gold medal at the Fifth International Film Festival.

A scene in the film

THE first sequences immediately stir the spectator's heart: Cu Chi, a district stretching along Highway 8 which joins Saigon and Tay Ninh, is shown with its stream ebbing and flowing, its orchards laden with fruit, its immense rubber forests, its inextricable network of land and river communications, its markets crowded with people and its schools swarming with pupils.

In this small rural area near Saigon city, the armed peasants have given fierce battles to the G.I.s armed with the most modern weapons. The excellent trenches have become impregnable fortresses of the guerillas. On this bucolic land, the American aggressors have unleashed hosts of supersonic jets, strategic B.52's, sprayed toxic chemicals, waged war on a peaceful population, on women and children, on cattle, fowls and vegetation. A quivering bush or a thin ray of light in darkness may become targets of the USAF. Life in this area of less than 150 square kilometres has been many a time smothered under showers of bombs and shells.

But Cu Chi has stood the trial. The spectator sees with astonishment how a powerful impulse of life coming from the womb of the earth has checked the forces of evil. The film makers throw light on the guerillas' determination to defend their native land. Among famous "Anti U.S.-fighters", there are Tran Thi Gung, a young woman of diminutive size but quick as lightning, Pham Van Coi, head of the militia who has distinguished himself by his courage, resourcefulness, calm and open-heartedness, Nguyen Van Ni, a solid and simple farmer, Vo Thi Mo, slender and prett y who fought for eight consecutive days with her unit... These men and women are typical of the indomitable spirit of the Cu Chi combatants. The terrain being not favourable to operations, the latter dig trenches to lay ambushes, attack and pursue the enemy. To make good their shortage of weapons, they turned out arms from U.S. bombs and shells. They cultivate rice in fields churned up by U.S. splinters. They trap tanks, burnt planes and G.I.'s armed cap-à-pie. They engage the enemy in close combat on the guerilla-belt around the U.S. base of Dong Du.

Sometimes, after a violent battle, they enjoy an evening of song and dance organized near a bomb crater or on a road dented by tank caterpillars, in a site still smelling of powder and clouded with smoke."

The film depicts an atmosphere of revolutionary optimism in which simple men, defenders of a heroic cause, are working wonders.

(Continued from page 3)

American goods. Whatever some may say about this, the "merchants of cannon" have been doing thriving business, particularly in the United States where the military-industrial complex, according to Eisenhower himself, is presiding over the country's destiny.

The Washington leaders are more affirmative than Mr Salisbury as regards Viet Nam's economic value. On August 4, 1953, addressing a conference of State governors in Seattle, Eisenhower said: "Now let us assume that we lose Indochina... The tin and tungsten that we so greatly value from that area would cease coming. So when the United States votes 400 million dollars to help that war, we are not voting a give-away program. We are voting for the cheapest way that we can to prevent the the occurrence of something that would be of a most terrible significance to the U.S.A., our security, our power and ability to get certain things we need from the riches of the Indochinese territory and from South East Asia."

In February 1965, Cabot Lodge reaffirmed that "Geographically Viet Nam stands at the hub of a vast area of the world — Southeast Asia — an area with a population of 249 million persons... He who holds or has influence in Viet Nam can affect the future of the Philippines and Formosa to the east, Thailand and Burma with their huge rice surpluses to the west, and Malaysia and Indonesia with their rubber and tin ore to the south... Viet Nam thus does not exist in a geographical vacuum—from it, large storehouses of wealth and population can be influenced and undermined". (*Sunday Globe*, Feb. 28, 1965).

Some would like to make us believe that present economic possibilities (for instance, synthetic rubber making) dispense American industry from that raw materials race which characterized former colonialism, and that on account of the importance of the American home market, the conquest of foreign markets is not a vital necessity for Yankee capitalism. Those people forget that it is precisely the development of big industry, the concentration of this industry in the hands of colossal companies which makes them so avidly seek many kinds of raw materials that are missing or running out in the United States (among others: oil from Venezuela and the Middle East; nonferrous metals from Latin America). They also forget that the decadence of European colonialisms opens up new markets and new sources of raw materials to American imperialism, and especially that the development of the 'socialist camp and the liberation of former colonies put dangerous limits on the American trusts' possibilities of economic expansion.

Since the end of the Second World War, the big American trusts have shown a marked tendency to conquer world hegemony. Economy of course does not explain everything, but the economic factor always remains the fundamental element. World hegemony has become a vital necessity for the viability of the U.S. economic system. It is this viability of the system as a whole that should be ensured, hence the increasing aggressiveness of U.S. imperialism as regards the socialist countries and the national liberation movement. The point for it is less to lay hands immediately on some storehouse of wealth — although this factor does operate in the Congo or in Guatemala for instance — than to safeguard the perennity of the system and to secure bases for the future.

That is why neo-colonialism has become a fundamental characteristic of Yankee imperialism. American aggressive plots against Cuba, actions in Guatemala and the Congo, support to Israel against the Arab countries, numberless machinations and intrigues in Latin America, control over South Korea, Formosa, the Philippines, threats against Cambodia, underhand penetration of India, Indonesia, Africa... are daily reminders for those who may be inclined to forget that Yankee neo-colonialism threatens every day the life of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The Bay of Pigs, Santo Domingo, Viet Nam, prove to what extent Yankee neo-colonialism can become truculent and aggressive, to what extent it may constitute a threat to world peace.

U.S. Neo-Colonialism in Viet Nam

ONE will understand nothing to the Viet Nam question if one does not keep in mind Yankee neo-colonialism. Washington is clinging to its design: to crush the patriotic and revolutionary forces of Viet Nam in order to impose in Saigon a government entirely subservient to it. If this design could be realised, then even if American troops were to withdraw from the country, South Viet Nam would none the less remain an American colony. All legal appearances — elections, representation to the UNO... — would be kept up, but the strings would remain in the hands of American advisers. Following its failure in special warfare, Washington thought it could carry the day through massive intervention by U.S. troops, who would be withdrawn once "pacification" achieved. But the Vietnamese people are too well informed to be deceived by neo-colonialist camouflages. They will never accept a return to colonial slavery, under whatever cloak. Viet Nam, proving ground for Yankee neo-colonialism, will also be the country where it will suffer its major setback.

Strike of Workers of Esso Oil Company in South Viet Nam

ON Aug. 7, 700 workers of the U.S. Esso Oil Company in South Viet Nam went on strike to protest against the employers' groundless dismissal of 21 workers of a petrol depot and of an oil supplying centre of this company in Quy Nhon.

The strike caused great impediments to the oil supply of that Company.

Workers of the petrol dump in Da Nang have warned that if the employers do not satisfy the demand of the strikers to reinstate the dismissed workers at Quy Nhon, all the workers in Da Nang will down tool.

Supported by their fellow-workers, the workers at Tan Son Nhat airbase and Nha Be depot, the two biggest fuel depots of the U.S., who were among the 700 strikers, resolutely demanded that Esso give work to the workers sacked.

L.A.F. BRILLIANT VICTORIES AT THE GATES OF SAIGON

■ 560 Enemies Including 474 G.I.'s Wiped Out ■ 20 Planes and Helicopters Downed ■ 5 War Vessels Sunk or Damaged

ON August 4- 1967, 4 battalions of Light Infantry Brigade 199, U.S. Division 25, and 3 battalions of the puppet regular army, conducted a "pacification" operation in a region along the Saigon River, 1 or 2km from their base and about 10km north of Saigon. With such a force, the enemy would believe that he could counter all attacks of the L.A.F. and carry through his scheme of herding the population.

In the first day, 147 enemy troops were killed by the guerillas and regional forces ; a landing craft was burnt, another hit by bullets. The survivors must huddle together for two days (August 5 and 6) waiting for reinforcements.

On August 7, 30 choppers landed fresh contingents of G.I.s on the battlefield. Taken unawares over the terrain prepared by the L.A.F., 15 helicopters were downed on the spot, two others set afire while trying to turn tail ; 244 G.I.s were killed. The plane carrying General John Freund, commanding the brigade, was hit and Freund himself had a leg broken.

On August 8, 2 battalions of U.S. Division 25 coming to rescue their mates met the same fate : over 100 G.I.s were killed, 2 choppers downed and many others damaged ; a landing craft was sunk and another damaged.

Thus in 5 days, the guerillas and regional forces killed or wounded 560 enemy soldiers, including 474 G.I.s, downed or damaged 20 planes and helicopters and sank or damaged 5 war vessels.

L.A.F. SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS ON ENEMY C.P.s AND BASES IN QUANG TRI PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

GPX reported that in the night of Aug. 11, 1967, the L.A.F. simultaneously attacked the C.P. of the military sector in Quang Tri provincial capital, the C.P. of Trieu Phong military sub-sector, 3km north, the C.P. of Hai Lang sub-sector, 8km south east and C.P. of Regiment 1, puppet Division 1, 3km south of that provincial capital.

At Trieu Phong, the L.A.F. completely wiped out in a 20 minutes' battle, the C.P. of the military sub-sector, a company of civil guards, a group of the special forces and "pacification" cadres, killing, wounding and capturing 200 enemies including the commander of the sub-sector and a number of officers ; an ammunition depot was blown up.

At La Vang, the L.A.F. also annihilated the motorized vehicles parking ground of the sub-sector : 13 tanks and armoured cars of Squad 3. Armoured Regiment 7, were destroyed and 100 men killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, the L.A.F. pounded the C.P.s of military sector and sub-sector in the provincial capital and the C.P. of Regiment 1, puppet Division 1 : many heavy guns were put out of action, the military encampments destroyed and over 100 enemies killed or wounded.

OTHER VICTORIES

The L.A.F. :

— Wiped out almost completely 1 puppet ranger battalion, wounded the commander of puppet Division 2, 38km South of Quang Nam (August 12)

— Put out of action almost completely 1 puppet battalion near Cao Lanh district town, 8a Dec province (August 12 night)

— Knocked out 3 puppet commando companies north northwest of Saigon (August 6)

THE L.A.F. on August 12, 1967, wiped out almost completely 2 puppet battalions in two attacks, according to Western reports.

About 38km south of Quang Nam town, the L.A.F. decimated 1 puppet ranger battalion. Colonel Nguyen Van Toan, commanding puppet Division 2 was wounded in this attack.

In the same night, 1 puppet battalion and 1 company of the special forces near Cao Lanh district capital, 8a Dec province, were assaulted. The enemy admitted that almost all the puppet battalion was wiped out.

ON August 6, 1967, 3 enemy positions were stormed, *GPX* reported.

About 90km north northwest of Saigon, the L.A.F. attacked Can Le compound, put out of action 303 soldiers of 3 puppet commando companies, captured 39 others, destroyed 4 105mm cannons and 106.7mm mortars, set on fire 1 petrol dump, 1 ammunition storage and seized large quantities of weapons and military equipment. The next morning, the L.A.F. wiped out 100 soldiers of a rescuing party and destroyed 2 cannons in an ambush.

On the same night of August 6, the L.A.F. attacked 1 armoured convoy of one of the U.S. commando units of Division 25, encamped in an area between Trang Bang and Cu Chi districts some 30km northwest of Saigon : 18 M. 109s and M.113s and 2 oil trucks were set ablaze, hundreds of G.I.s were killed or wounded.

On the same night, 120 soldiers of the command post of a puppet sea-going boat unit about 13km east northeast of Quang Ngai town was also wiped out. The American commander was killed and the L.A.F. controlled the situation till 6 a.m. of the following day.

IN addition to these attacks, the L.A.F. on July 29 struked at the military airfield in Vinh Long : 17 helicopters were destroyed or damaged, 1 ammunitiou dump burned and many enemy troops knocked out.

ON July 20 and 21, in coordination with the regular forces, the guerillas attacked the enemy on Highway 20 and ambushed a rescue party 77km northeast of Saigon, causing over 300 American casualties, demolishing 40 military vehicles including 36 tanks and armoured troop carriers and damaging 1 B. 57 plane and 3 choppers.

AT GIO AN, L.A.F. ARTILLERY AND INFANTRY SPLENDIDLY CO-ORDINATE THEIR ACTION

IN 5 DAYS 1,320 U.S. MARINES PUT OUT OF ACTION, 16 TANKS AND 2 PLANES DESTROYED, 6 COMPANIES WIPED OUT.

GIO AN village in Gio Linh district, Quang Tri province, almost borders on the 17th parallel. It is sandwiched between the base of Con Tien in the west and that of Doc Mieu in the east, some 10km away. In addition, there exist a base at Cam Lo 5km to the South, and another one at Dong Ha 14km to the South east All those four bases are guarded by U.S. marines. Gio An is thus the hardest pressed village in the region.

On June 29, as usual, an intelligence platoon started from Con Tien on patrol duty in the northeast of the locality. At a point 3-4km from its position, the platoon was almost entirely wiped out. The remnants fled back and, unable to appraise the adverse strength, they could only report that they had fallen into an ambush. In the evening, a marine company set about groping the way to the scene of the ambush and had another unit knocked down ; the rest showed a clean pair of heels. Then on June 30 and July 1, artillery and aircraft rained bombs and shells on Gio An.

On the morning, of July 2, Company B, Battalion 1, U.S. Regiment 9, made a sortie from Con Tien. Once again, Gio An village resounded with gunshots hardly had 5 scouts fallen down when the whole of Company B was submerged in flames and smoke. The L.A.F. were mounting an assault, cutting the enemy formation. At that moment artillery rumbled at Con Tien and Gio Linh where the marines were pinned down under deluge of bullets. The adversary was completely powerless before the annihilation of Company B.

In such a situation the command of Marine Division 3 had to helilift Battalion 3, Regiment 9, from Dong Ha to the rescue of Battalion 1 at Con Tien. Only by noon did that battalion, which had two companies left, begin heading for An Nha, north of Con Tien. This time the Americans displayed more cautiousness, now fanning out, now huddling together, to avoid ambushes. By 1.30 p.m. as they were scrumming in an open ricefield, the L.A.F. took them by surprise with an uninterrupted and devastating shelling. While the marines fled in utter confusion for shelter in the neighbouring thickets, the Liberation troops sprang up from the ground, made deep thrusts into the enemy formation and chopped it into small chunks to knock them out. Artillery support from Dong Ha and Cam Lo proved unable to extricate the enemy from his predicament. As for the bombers, they were impotent ; a few which ventured to swoop down on the attackers met with an intense ground fire : one was shot down on the spot and the others, set afire, took to flight.

Battalion 3 which had just arrived at the site set out forthwith on a relief mission. A part of it was helilifted to Hao Son 2km from An Nha, another part deployed on foot with tanks in the van. The two prongs thus formed suffered so heavy casualties that the Marine complained that the L.A.F. had accurately spotted all their positions in the area. The rescue mission had to be given up with a view to gathering the remnants of Battalion 1. As a result, on July 2 alone the Liberation forces put 4 U.S. companies out of action.

The following morning, orders from the commanding staff of Marine Regiment 3 to Battalions 1 and 2 called off their raid on Phu Vang and Quang Da (Quang Nam—Da Nang) and instructed them to relieve American troops belonging to Regiment 9. Battalion 1 was landed behind Hao Son and Battalion 2, assigned to the defence of the southwest of Con Tien. On the night of the same day, Battalion 3, Regiment 9 which had 2 companies whittled down on July 2 evening, came under attack and sustained further losses. On July 4, after assembling its survivors, it proceeded to An Nha in an attempt to pick up the dead. Once again, the L.A.F., emerging from dug-out in the mountain slopes, assailed their opponent, killed and wounded another 200. This battalion, largely deprived of its fighting capacity, withdrew behind the fire line for Battalion 1, Regiment 3, to take the lead.

The latter unit operated at dawn on July 6 after the air force and ground artillery had provided a curtain fire lasting a whole day. The enemy sent out small detachments which advanced very slowly and cautiously, protected by a heavy barrage of fire from all sides. However, when by 3.30 p.m. the Americans reached An Nha, Gia Binh and Xuan Hai, they came under a shower of the L.A.F.'s artillery shells followed by a hand-to-hand fight. While the Liberation infantry set afire and destroyed tanks and annihilated one group of adverse troops after another, an artillery duel took place with not less fierceness at Cam Lo, Dong Ha and Gio Linh. The Marines routed by the L.A.F. fire were intercepted. At about 8 p.m. the Liberation forces destroyed wholesale 3 companies and controlled the battlefield. The group constituted by Battalion 2 was tied down at Con Tien and lost 7 tanks and 150 men.

After the days' fighting, the L.A.F. knocked out 1,320 U.S. troops including 6 Marine companies entirely annihilated, and 2 other companies heavily depleted. They also destroyed or set on fire 16 tanks and shot down 2 aircraft on the spot.

At Gio An the U.S. expeditionary force received a staggering blow at the hands of the L.A.F. who splendidly co-ordinated their artillery and infantry in an area where their presence was most unexpected by the American command. The new commander of the U.S. marines—Cushman — who replaced General Walt, was said to know nothing of the adversary's intention in the Gio An sector (*UPI*, July 6). That was true.